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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,923	08/12/2004	Melissa Vass	158982 (GEM-0163)	4922
23413	7590	12/10/2007		
CANTOR COLBURN, LLP 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002			EXAMINER CWERN, JONATHAN	
			ART UNIT 3737	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,923

Applicant(s)

VASS ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan G. Cwern

Art Unit

3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :9/16/04, 11/26/04, 12/20/04, 3/17/06, 7/7/06, 8/16/06, 10/26/06, 12/28/06, 5/21/07, 7/23/07.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 11/9/07 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the groups are drawn to such similar subject matter that a search of one group would substantially overlap a search of another group. This is not found persuasive because in regards to Groups I and II, Claim 14 is directed towards a computer system with a data port. Claim 1 is directed towards an imaging system. Claim 14 does not require a scanner system. In regards to Groups I and III, claim 16 is a method for generating an image, requiring segmentation processing and a geometric marker. Claim 1 does not require segmentation processing or a geometric marker. In regards to Groups I and IV, Claim 31 is directed towards a method for using a medical database. Claim 1 does not require information to be retrieved from a database. In regards to Groups I and V, claim 34 is directed towards a system for a medical intervention procedure, requiring the use of a 3D model. Claim 1 does not require the use of a 3D model.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in paragraph [0051], the word "protocol" is misspelled.

Appropriate correction is required.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction

of the following is required: claims 3, 5-8, and 10-13 describe image data of the left atrium and the left ventricle, which is not found in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okerlund et al. (US 2003/0187358).

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claims 1-5, and 9-12, Okerlund et al. discloses all of the claimed subject matter. See e.g., Figure 1, paragraphs [0017]-[0020] and claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 13. Further regarding claims 6-8 and 13, Okerlund et al. discloses using known post-processing tools for performing advanced vessel analysis and volume rendering

such as (AVA) and (CARDIQ) (see paragraphs [0019]-[0020] and GE "CardIQ" and "Advanced Vessel Analysis" product descriptions).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keidar (US 6650927) in view of Subramanyan et al. (US 6782284) and further in view of Chen et al. (WO 96/10949).

Keidar discloses a system and method for generating a 3D model for use in cardiac interventional planning procedures (such as ventricular pacing planning or atrial fibrillation planning) including everything except for a database, and operator interface

and a post-processing system for inserting a geometrical marker and selecting a viewable parameter. See Figure 1, 6, and 7, and elements 48 and 49.

Subramanyan et al. disclose a method and apparatus for interventional procedure planning (such as placement of a stent) using a user interface (44) and a post-processing system (40, 48) for marker (72, 280) placement and viewable parameter selection (Figures 9-11). Subramanyan also disclose saving a viewable image, anatomical landmark, etc. (34, 46) to be exported to user interface (44). See Figure 1. Subramanyan further disclose wherein the post processing software further performs image rendering (242) and vessel tracking along a centerline (82). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to employ the user-interface and post-processing software of Subramanyan et al. in the invention of Keidar to enable vascular tracking and visualization in 3D from multiple directions (Subramanyan, column 2, lines 25-27) and to allow intuitive graphical feedback and interaction with the physician (Subramanyan, column 2, lines 39-42) when administering treatment in tricky regions of the heart which are difficult to mentally visualize (Keidar, column 1, lines 12-27). Furthermore, although Subramanyan disclose saving the image data, a database is not addressed explicitly.

Chen et al. disclose a system and method for anatomical visualization of structures demonstrating that image databases (e.g., 10) are well known and can be used for independently manipulating data and to generate images from a wide variety of viewing positions (see pages 16-18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to employ a database as taught by Chen

et al. in the invention of Keidar in view of Subramanyan et al. as is well known in the art and for the above described reasons.

Conclusion

This is a continuation in part of applicant's earlier Application No. 10/065595. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Cwern whose telephone number is 571-270-1560. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30AM - 6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JC

/Ruth S. Smith/
Ruth S. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3737